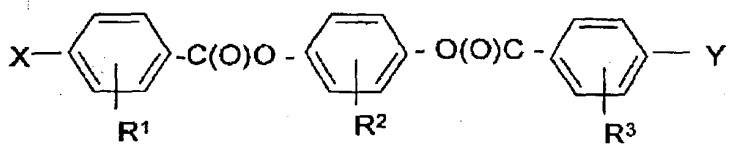
Amendments to the Claims:

1-104. (Canceled).

105. (New) A method for producing a blend comprising randomly substituted mesogens, said method comprising:

providing one or more platform molecules have the following general structure:



wherein:

X and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of terminal functionalities and spacer groups, one or more member selected from the group consisting of X and Y comprising one or more spacer groups;

R^2 is a bulky organic group whereby, when both X and Y are reacted with polymerizable groups to produce polymerizable mesogens, R^2 provides sufficient steric hindrance to achieve a nematic state at room temperature while suppressing crystallinity of said polymerizable mesogens at room temperature; and,

R^1 and R^3 are selected from groups less bulky than R^2; and

independently substituting at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y with a polymerizable group, thereby producing a blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

106. (New) The method of claim 105 wherein the blend of randomly substituted mesogens has a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

107. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 60 wt.% of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

108. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 70 wt.% of said blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

109. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and methacryloxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

110. (New) The method of claim 107 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and methacryloxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

111. (New) The method of claim 108 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups,

acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and methacryloxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

112. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyloxy groups, acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, thiol alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, said alkyl moiety comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

113. (New) The method of claim 108 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyloxy groups, acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, thiol alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, said alkyl moiety comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

114. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy

alkoxy groups.

115. (New) The method of claim 107 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

116. (New) The method of claim 108 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

117. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

118. (New) The method of claim 108 wherein said polymerizable groups are methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

119. (New) The method of claim 106 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

120. (New) The method of claim 107 wherein are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

121. (New) The method of claim 108 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

122. (New) The method of claim 111 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups,

halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

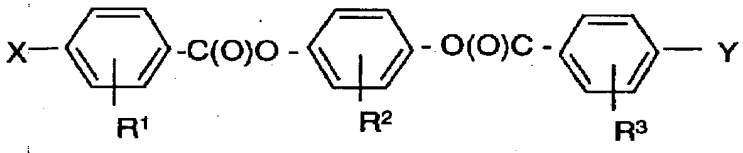
123. (New) The method of claim 113 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

124. (New) The method of claim 116 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

125. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

126. (New) A method for producing a blend comprising randomly substituted mesogens, said method comprising:

providing one or more platform molecules have the following general structure:



wherein

X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 50 wt% or more of said blend, and one or more members selected from the group consisting of X and Y comprises one or more spacer groups;

R^2 is a bulky organic group whereby, when both X and Y are reacted with

polymerizable groups to produce polymerizable mesogens, R^2 provides sufficient steric hindrance to achieve a nematic state at room temperature while suppressing crystallinity of said polymerizable mesogens at room temperature; and,

R^1 and R^3 are selected from groups less bulky than R^2; and

independently substituting at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y with a polymerizable group, thereby producing a blend of randomly substituted mesogens.

127. (New) The method of claim 126 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, acryloyloxy alkoxy groups, and methacryloyxyalkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms and comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

128. (New) The method of claim 126 wherein said polymerizable groups are selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyloxy groups, acryloyloxy groups, methacryloyloxy groups, and acryloyloxy alkoxy and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, thiol alkoxy groups comprising an alkyl moiety having from about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, said alkyl moiety comprising CH_2 groups, wherein one or more of said CH_2 groups independently can be substituted by oxygen, sulfur, or an ester group; provided that at least 2 carbon atoms separate said oxygen or said ester group.

129. (New) The method of claim 126 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

130. (New) The method of claim 127 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

131. (New) The method of claim 128 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

132. (New) The method of claim 126 wherein the blend of randomly substituted mesogens has a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

133. (New) The method of claim 127 wherein the blend of randomly substituted mesogens has a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

134. (New) The method of claim 128 wherein the blend of randomly substituted mesogens has a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

135. (New) The method of claim 129 wherein the blend of randomly substituted mesogens has a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

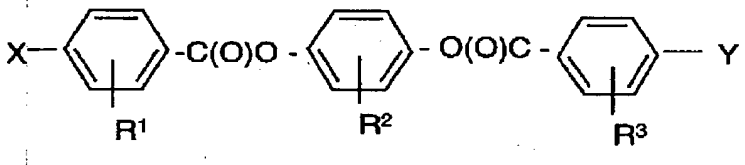
136. (New) The method of claim 130 wherein the blend of randomly substituted mesogens has a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

137. (New) The method of claim 121 wherein the blend of randomly substituted mesogens has a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

138. (New) A method for producing a blend comprising randomly substituted

mesogens, said method comprising:

providing one or more platform molecules have the following general structure:



wherein

X comprises a terminal functionality and Y comprises a polymerizable group in about 50 wt% or more of said blend, and one or more members selected from the group consisting of X and Y comprises one or more spacer groups;

R^2 is a bulky organic group whereby, when both X and Y are reacted with polymerizable groups to produce polymerizable mesogens, R^2 provides sufficient steric hindrance to achieve a nematic state at room temperature while suppressing crystallinity of said polymerizable mesogens at room temperature; and,

R^1 and R^3 are selected from groups less bulky than R^2; and

independently substituting at least one member selected from the group consisting of X and Y with a polymerizable group selected from the group consisting of acryloyloxy alkoxy groups and methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups, thereby producing a blend of randomly substituted mesogens having a T_c of from about 20 °C to about 37 °C.

139. (New) The method of claim 138 wherein said polymerizable groups are

methacryloyloxy alkoxy groups.

140. (New) The method of claim 138 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.

141. (New) The method of claim 139 wherein said terminal functionalities are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, amino groups, sulfhydryl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups, and spacer groups.